

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MATT
POLKA'S RETIREMENT**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the retirement of Mr. Matt Polka, the longtime Chairman and President of ACA Connects. Matt's tenure, from the inception of the organization to the effective organization it has become today, has been marked by his integrity and his earnest commitment to representing the small, hometown businesses that have built and managed the cable and broadband networks that Americans depend on. Matt also distinguished himself in Washington by his common decency, his love of a good conversation about politics, and a desire to help anyone he could.

Those values have been clearly shaped by his deep roots in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There is not a person who worked with Matt that didn't know of his love and affection for his wife, Sharman, his daughters, Molly and Annie, and his pride in being from the Three Rivers area.

Under Matt's guidance and leadership, ACA Connects grew from an informal grassroots effort to being one of the preeminent telecommunications organizations in Washington. He ensured his members had a voice in all the important debates that have occurred since taking the helm of ACA Connects. Those efforts span the re-examination of the 1992 Telecommunications Act to each reauthorization of the satellite industry to the latest broadband deployment and adoption initiatives. His work was a mile wide and a mile deep.

Matt has helped my constituents in Ohio through his work to improve broadband infrastructure and access. Many of my constituents live in rural areas and Matt's advocacy has aided efforts to ensure that they can get online. Additionally, Matt has been a strong advocate for small businesses across the country and championed efforts to cut the bureaucratic red tape that hampers them.

ACA Connects earned its reputation through his unwavering vision and mantra to work with everyone, to find places of agreement, and to focus on common interests rather than focus on differences and partisanship. That approach has earned him the respect of so many Members, staff, and counsels across the Hill along with the various officials in administrations that have been in place during his time. The respect shown to Matt also comes from others—including consumer groups and businesses—even when his work puts him on opposite sides of an issue.

Guided by his faith, he has been a firm and determined advocate for his members and he has done so with conviction, character, and fairness. After 25 years of service to ACA Connects, I want to recognize his work and offer my best wishes for his next chapter of service in life.

DON DAVIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Davis for his years of service as County Manager for Jefferson County, Colorado.

Throughout his five years as the County Manager, Don showed tremendous dedication, dependability, and leadership, directing the organizational and administrative operations of 3,000 employees and one of the largest counties in the state. As the fourth-most populous county in Colorado which serves as the gateway from the Denver Metro region to the Rocky Mountains, Jefferson County has had to face a variety of issues in recent years ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic and budget shortfalls to wildfire events and infrastructure challenges. At every turn, Don has led with a pragmatic and innovative approach.

Don began his post-graduate career as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and served his country through numerous deployments to the Middle East. Following his 27 years of service in the U.S. military, he retired with the rank of Colonel in 2017.

Don has successfully navigated Jefferson County and its residents through an unprecedented pandemic while continuing to move the region forward on climate change issues and creating a better quality of life for all Jeff co residents. I am incredibly thankful for his service and dedication to the people of Jefferson County and wish him well in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING LAETICIA
JOINVILLE, ALAIN HUYNH, AN-
TONIO MORALES, JET NGUYEN,
AND CHANEL SEEPERSAD

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the five outstanding students from my district in the Broward County Public School System who have been recognized with the annual "Best in Class" award.

Each year, Broward County Public Schools recognizes high school seniors in the county who have had perfect attendance throughout their K-12 education. This impressive feat requires a continued commitment and dedication to their education. I am proud to join them in recognizing these exemplary students:

Laetitia Joinville from Sheridan High School, Alain Huynh from Deerfield Beach High School, Antonio Morales from Coral Springs High School, Jet Nguyen from Everglades High School, and Chanel Seepersad from Blanche Ely High School.

Once again, I give congratulations to these outstanding individuals. I wish them the best of luck with their future endeavors and continued academic success. It is with great pleasure that I honor them.

HONORING NORTH CAROLINA PO-
LICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR
TRAVIS SMITH**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kannapolis Police Sergeant Travis Smith on being recognized as the 2021-2022 North Carolina Police Officer of the Year.

A native of Cabarrus County, Sergeant Smith graduated from Northwest Cabarrus High School in 1999 before joining the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 2000. He was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and served in the United States Army Reserves upon completing his assignment. In 2006, Sergeant Smith started with Kannapolis Police Department as a patrol officer. He became a Field Training Officer in 2014 and was later promoted to Sergeant in 2016. He continues to provide extraordinary service to his community as a member of Patrol Squad D.

Over the course of this career, Sergeant Smith has continuously demonstrated the highest level of sacrifice and bravery as a member of both the military and law enforcement. In 2013, he was awarded a Life Saving Award for rescuing a civilian from their burning home. His courageous action resulting in this previous distinction highlights just one example of his unassailable commitment to protecting and defending the residents of Kannapolis.

The North Carolina Police Officer of the Year award is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization. Sergeant Smith was nominated by Kannapolis VFW Post 8989 and selected from a statewide field of qualified police officers. In being recognized as the 2021-2022 National Police Officer of the Year, Sergeant Smith is now also recognized as a National VFW Police Officer of the Year. Sergeant Smith has made an immeasurable impact on our community and is incredibly deserving of these distinctions. I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish him success as he continues to serve and set an example for all in our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Sergeant Travis Smith as the 2021-2022 North Carolina Police Officer of the Year and wish him well as he continues his exemplary service to our community.

HONORING NAOMI FUCHS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Naomi Fuchs, CEO of the Santa Rosa Community Health, for her outstanding contributions to the health care system in California's Fifth Congressional District.

Ms. Fuchs was born in Boston, Massachusetts. She earned a bachelor's degree in medical anthropology and world music and dance from Wesleyan University, and a master's degree in business of administration from Sonoma State University.